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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Pre Patent Application of

Won Tai Choi

Application No. 09/944,900

Filed: August 31, 2001

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
AUTOMATICALLY INFORMING  
INTERNET USERS OF OTHER  
USERS HAVING SIMILAR  
INTERESTS IN VIRTUAL SPACE

) Group Art Unit: 2152

) Examiner: Kimberly White

) INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
) STATEMENT

) Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon  
) 225 West Wacker Drive  
) Chicago, Illinois 60606  
) (312) 201-2000

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

February 21, 2002

Melissa Cooper

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith are patents, publications or other information [attached hereto and listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 (modified)] which may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

This Information Disclosure Statement:

- (a) ☐ accompanies the new patent application submitted herewith. 37 CFR § 1.97(a).
- (b) ☐ is filed within three months after the filing date of the application or within three months after the date of entry of the national stage of a PCT application as set forth in 37 CFR § 1.491.
- (c) ☒ as far as is known to the undersigned, is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
- (d) ☐ is filed after the first office action and more than three months after the application's filing date or PCT national stage date of entry filing but, as far as is known to the undersigned, prior to the mailing date of either a final rejection or a notice of allowance, whichever occurs first, and is accompanied by either the fee (\$180) set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p) or a certification as specified in 37

CFR § 1.97(e), as checked below.

- (e) ☐ is filed after the mailing date of either a final rejection or a notice of allowance, whichever occurred first, and is accompanied by the fee (\$180) set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(i)(1) and a certification as specified in 37 CFR § 1.97(e), as checked below. This document is to be considered as a petition requesting consideration of the information disclosure statement.

[If either of boxes (d) or (e) are checked above, the following "certification" under 37 CFR § 1.97(e) may need to be completed.] The undersigned certifies that:

- (f) ☒ Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication mailed from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- (g) ☐ No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication mailed from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

A list of the patent(s) or publication(s) is set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449 (Modified).

A copy of the items on PTO-1449 (Modified) is supplied herewith:

- (h) ☒ each    (i) ☐ none    (j) ☐ only those listed below:

Those patent(s) or publication(s) which are marked with an asterisk (\*) in the attached form PTO-1449 (Modified) are not supplied because they were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in a prior application no. , filed and relied upon in this application for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

A concise explanation of relevance of the items listed on form PTO-1449 (Modified) is:

- (k) ☐ not given
- (l) ☐ given for each listed item
- (m) ☐ given for only non-English language listed item(s) [Required]
- (n) ☒ is in the form of an English language copy of a Search Report from a foreign patent office, issued in a counterpart application, which refers to the relevant portions of the references [copy attached].

The Examiner is reminded that a "concise explanation of the relevance" of the

submitted items "may be nothing more than identification of the particular figure or paragraph of the patent or publication which has some relation to the claimed invention," MPEP § 609.

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.


In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.98 and MPEP § 609 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

[X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 23-2126 for any fees required in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. **A duplicate copy of this Notice is enclosed for this purpose.** In particular, in the event that an Office Action has crossed in the mail with this Information Disclosure Statement, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the above-named deposit account for any fees required pursuant to CFR §§ 1.17(p) or 1.17(i)(1).

Respectfully submitted,

WILDMAN, HARROLD, ALLEN & DIXON

Dated: FEBRUARY 21, 2002

By:   
Dennis K. Scheer  
Reg. No. 39,356

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Atty. Docket No: TJK/195

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

PTO/SB/O&A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 14494/A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	09/944,900
				Filing Date	August 31, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Won Tai Choi
				Group Art Unit	2152
Examiner Name	Kimberly White				
Attorney Docket Number	TJK/195				
Sheet	1	of	1		

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	1	6,023,729	US	Samuel et al.	2/8/00	
	2	6,112,181	US	Shear et al.	8/29/00	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YY	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
	3	KR	2000-0050089			8/5/00	
	4	KR	2000-0050073			8/5/00	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number.

<sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents.

<sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3).

<sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

<sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible.

<sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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